the Dunkel proposals indicating the objective to be achieved by each change; and

(c) what is the response of GATT community thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) In respect of concerns affecting farmers we have sought a provision to the effect that an effective sui-generis system of plant variety protection may also provide for farmers' and researchers' consumptions The objective is to ensure that the traditional practice of farmers using seed from one crop for planting in the next crop is not affected, and that researchers can use protected varieties for further modifications.

(ii) We have also sought a dilution of the provisions concerning patenting of micro-organisms. The objective is to ensure that the naturally occurring gene sequences are not brought within this the scope of patentability.

(iii) In respect of concerns affecting the poor, we have sought an amendment to the text which would clarify that our public distribution system involving procurement, stocking and sale at subsidized prices is exempt from the disciplines envisaged in the agreement on agriculture.

(c) The reaction of our trading partners to the above mentioned proposals has been as follows :

(i) It is generally agreed that the farmers 'and researchers' exemptions are compatible with a sui-generis system of plant variety protection. However, another participant has suggested that the provision should also include the elements of the sui-generis protection. This has not been accepted by us. Negotiations are continuing.

(ii) No agreement has been possible so far on our proposal on micro-organisms as many countries are of the view that the existing provisions of the text are adequate to take care of our concerns. Negotiations are continuing.

(iii) It is generally agreed that India's public distribution system is not affected by the agreement on agriculture. Negotiations are going on to find a suitable formulation for incorporation in the text.

Decision on Dunkel Proposals

345. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS :
SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :
SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since agreed to accept the Dunkel proposals in the field of agriculture/chemicals; if so the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that the delay in the final decision on the acceptance has generated controversy among farmers/general public;

(c) whether Government would propose to make its stand clear and announce a final decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) The Uruguay Round Negotiations are still in progress and Government is seeking improvements, changes and understandings in the Draft Final Act. The question of accepting the Uruguay Round results will arise when the results of negotiations are available.

India's Performance on Exports and Imports

346. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN :
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :